FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 DECEMBER 1985

Pakistani-Indian Relations

After a 2-hour 17 December meeting with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Pakistani President Ziaul Haq announced that the two countries have agreed not to attack each other's nuclear installations, both Delhi and Karachi reported. Speaking at an airport press conference in New Delhi, the Pakistani president said the countries "have agreed to move forward step by step" and revealed that a series of official Pakistani-Indian meetings beginning in February will "discuss other aspects of political issues."

Iran

Tehran radio broadcast a statement by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri urging clergymen and students to cancel planned marches in support of the Assembly of Experts decision appointing him as Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's successor. Disclosing that he recently asked the Assembly of Experts to change their decision and informed them he was "under no circumstances" willing to be considered, Montazeri acknowledged that he has now been faced with a "fait accompli" against his wishes.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi General Command communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio announced that, in addition to a successful attack on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast, Iraqi planes flew 99 combat missions against Iranian ground targets 17 December. The communique noted that two Iranian planes were forced to flee "without achieving their aims" when they attempted to enter Iraqi airspace over the East Maysan area.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn ended a 2-day working visit to Moscow returning to Baghdad 17 December, INA reported. Although Moscow radio's Arabic broadcast noted the USSR's desire for an immediate political settlement to the Iran-Iraq conflict, a Tehran radio commentary on the Iraqi leader's visit suggested that Soviet support for Saddam Husayn will only lengthen the war.

Libya

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze sent a message to his Libyan counterpart dealing with Soviet-Libyan relations and expressing Soviet support for the Jamahiriyah against the "threats and provocations of American imperialism," Tripoli radio reported.

Egyptian-Libyan Relations

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has an "open invitation" to visit Cairo, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak revealed in an interview with Kuwait's *ARAB TIMES*. Noting that he had previously agreed to meet the Libyan leader on the border, in a neutral place, or in Cairo, Mubarak insisted that Al-Qadhdhafiwould be welcome in Cairo and that all Egypt wants from him is good relations.

Israel

Although Syria's SAM-2's have covered Syrian airspace for a long time, "in the end they will be destroyed," Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Dan Shomron stated in an interview with Jerusalem radio. The situation caused by the deployment of the SAM-2's near the Lebanese border is "certainly not good" and could deteriorate, he warned. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres announced that Israel will continue its aerial intelligence-gathering missions over Lebanon, taking care not to provoke a direct confrontation with Syria, according to the radio. He predicted that calm will prevail as long as the Syrians understand that Israel has the military advantage, IDF radio noted.

As for relations with Egypt, Jerusalem television broadcast Peres' assertion that he "never intended" to discuss the Tabah issue at the 18 December Inner Cabinet meeting because there are still several matters to finalize with Egypt which could take several weeks. In this regard Peres has decided to send Israeli officials to Egypt for further talks, the television said, though Minister 'Ezer Weizman denied the need for further talks with the Egyptians and called for a swift political decision on Tabah.

Lebanon

Representatives of the Progressive Socialist Party and Amal Movement will meet with a Lebanese Forces delegation in Damascus 18 December to discuss the amendments to the tripartite agreement proposed by the Forces, the clandestine radio Voice of the Mountain reported. In another development, the Lebanese Forces released a number of Syrians in their custody, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted.

Algerian Opposition Group

Former President Ahmed ben Bella and resistance figure Hocine Ait Ahmed announced in London the formation of a "unified front" for forces opposed to the current Algerian regime, MAP reported. The two opposition leaders said their basic task is to awaken the Algerian people's forces and to help the people to escape the "political vacuum" created by the current regime.

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Najibullah Speaks at DYOA Central Committee Plenum

LD180025 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Excerpts] The 13th Plenum of the DYOA Central Committee was held today in the conference hall of Amani Lycee.

The fundamental and major issue of this Plenum's work was the nature of the methods for the precise implementation of the 17th PDPA Central Committee Plenum and determination of the duties of the DYOA committees regarding the enhancement of role of youth for the normalization of the situation in the country.

The BIA correspondent reports that Najibullah, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Major General Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the DRA minister of national defense; Major General Muhammad Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and general head of the Army's political affairs; some members of the party Central Committee; the heads of the PDPA Central Committee's defense and justice department; secretaries; some employees of the DYOA Central Committee; secretaries of the wards and respective primary DYOA organizations; political heads of the educational institutions of the armed forces who are under the supervision of the DYOA; and a number of instructors of armed forces units and companies took part in the work of the 13th DYOA Central Committee Plenum.

The BIA correspondent adds that Frid Mazdek, first secretary of the DYOA Central Committee, first read the basic report of the Plenum on the duties of the DYOA committee regarding the enhancement of the role of youth in broadening the social pillars of the people's sovereignty and normalization of the situation in the country in light of the resolutions of 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum.

Maj Gen Nazar Muhammad, the DRA minister of Derence; Qotbuddin, secretary of the DYOA provincial committee, Nangarhar Province; Qotbuddin, secretary of the DYOA provincial committee, Nangarhar Province; Qodsiya, a worker of Bagrami textile mill; Shahabuddin Sarman, member of the DYOA Central Committee; Abdul Baqi, member of the DYOA Central Committee and a peasant of Jowzjan Province; and Habiborrahman, a soldier of a unit in defense of the revolution then expressed their views about the basic statement. At the end of the discussion on the basic report of the Plenum, a formation of cadres and activists of the DYOA who voluntarily joined the country's border force, entered the hall with particular army order, wearing military uniforms.

At this meeting, Najibullah spoke about the high courage, combat spirit, and revolutionary fighting of the youth and added:

We have full confidence that you, pioneer youth, are not the last combat formation of the DYOA who are going to the units with feelings of self-sacrifice for safeguarding the country's borders, territorial integrity, honor, pride, and the prestige of our revolutionary and historic country, Afghanistan. We believe that you, the country's youth, will accomplish your patriotic duties vis-a-vis the homeland as did your fathers and ancestors.

In assessing the work of 13th DYOA Plenum, Najibullah, in addressing the participants of the Plenum, said:

The duties specified in the 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum require of all organizations and our committees — including party, DYOA, DWOA, and other organizations — a formidable rotation and a powerful shake-up for the solution of existing problems and the precise and rapid execution of duties.

At the end, Najibullah said: The accomplishment of all these duties will become feasible when the masses of the people recognize you, members of the DYOA, as the best youth; that is to say, you should have a place in the heart and conscience of the masses.

In the second part of the Plenum's work, organizational issues on a series of changes in the composition of the DYOA Central Committee were presented to the session by the Executive Bureau of the DYOA Central Committee and were approved by those attending the Plenum.

DRA Peace Organization Appeals to Pakistan

LD162221 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Excerpt] The Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship organization of the DRA, in expressing its fraternal solidarity with the righteous and just struggle of the brave tribes, announces that if the Pakistan Government is really interested in improving the convulsive situation of the region, it must withdraw its military forces from the tribal regions as soon as possible and end the siege of the brave Afridi and Shiuwar tribes.

According to the righteous demands of the peace-loving tribes, Pakistan should remove the military training camps of the counterrevolutionary bandits from the tribes' territory, and should not strive to export from their territory professional murderers and assassins — which is done according to the will of the American imperialists — into DRA jurisdiction.

The victory of the brave tribes in the struggle against oppression is embodied in their righteous path.

USSR Economic Relations Committee Delegation Arrives

LD162132 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] A high-ranking Soviet delegation headed by Igor Yevgenyevich Khotsialov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, arrived in Kabul today to take part in the 20th anniversary of the beginning of operations of the combined irrigation farms of Jalalabad.

The delegation was welcomed at Kabul international airport by Abdul Ghaffar Lakanwal, agriculture and land reform minister and head of the Soviet-Afghan economic-technical cooperation commission; a number of members of the commission; and the consul of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

Soviet Union To Help Restore Power Lines
LD171422 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] The Soviet Union will assist the DRA with transport vehicles, construction machinery and tools, [words indistinct], spare parts, and other equipment and materials needed for the repair and restoration of the transmission lines of substations and other electrical power systems at a cost of R6.5 million.

Thirty-four experts from the friendly Soviet Union will also be sent to Afghanistan to help with the construction and (?montage) of the project of the 110 kv transferable line from the Soviet border to Konduz, [words indistinct] on the River Panj, and a 110 kv substation for Konduz City.

A BIA correspondent reports that the contracts related to this cooperation were signed in Kabul between the Ministry of Electrical Energy and an adviser of the USSR Embassy in Kabul.

The contracts were signed by Raz Muhammad Paktin, electrical energy minister, and Petrov, the economic adviser of the USSR Embassy in Kabul, and they exchanged their documents.

The expenses of these contracts will be provided through the 1979 bilateral credit agreement between and also by a long-term loan from the Soviet Union.

This equipment and machinery will solve the problems of the transferable lines network of the electricity and electric substations in the Afghanistan which need restoration.

A source in the Ministry of Electrical Energy said: The equipment will be handed over to the Afghan side over a period of 27 months.

Counterrevolutionaries Sentenced to Death, Prison
LD171452 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] The judicial delegation of the Special Revolutionary Court, which had gone to Parwan Province to investigate cases related to counterrevolutionary elements, during several broad open judicial sessions, investigated the dossiers of five counterrevolutionary elements.

After studying the charges by the responsible prosecutor and the defense of the accused which took place in a free and democratic climate, and after hearing the witnesses and observing the material documents of the crime, the judicial delegation issued the following orders concerning the accused in accordance with Articles 221, 271, 273, and the last item of the Article 275 of the (?implementation of the penal law):

Nurrol Hoda, known as Tofan, son of Sakhi Muhammad resident of Bagram District, head of the (?shock) group of Jamiyat band, charged with armed revolt and resistance and attack on the state security posts, was sentenced to death in accordance with Article 175 of the penal code .

Amanollah, known as Mualem Aman, son of Nasrullah, head of a group of 10 persons of Gulbuddin band, charged with armed revolt and resistence, stealing people's property, and murdering two patriotic religious leaders, was sentenced to death in accordance with Article 175 of the penal code .

Abdul Hakim, son of Gul Mirza, resident of Matak, head of a group of 25 persons of Jamiyat band in the region of Shaghal Konda, charged with armed revolt and resistence, attacking security posts, and murdering one compatriot, was sentenced to death in accordance with Article 175 of the penal code .

Muhammad Moqim, son of Muhammad Alam, resident of Bagram District, charged with being a meber of Gulbuddin band and planting a timed bomb to explode at a wedding of one of our compatriots, was sentenced to 16 years in prison, to be counted from his date of arrest, in accordance with Article 175 and in consideration of Article 30 of the penal code.

Gul Agha, son of Muhammad Amin, resident of Senjed Dara, charged with taking part in counterrevolutionary activities, was sentenced to 6 years in prison, to be counted from his date of arrest, in accordance with Article 175 and in consideration of Articles 49-50 of the penal code.

In accordance with Article 58 of the DRA basic principle, the execution order on Nurrol Hoda, Amanollah, and Abdul Hakim, will be applicable after the approval of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council. The sentences of Muhammad Moqim and Gul Agha are final and (?confirmed) in accordance with Article 11 of the law of the Special revolutioanry Court.

Rebels in Herat, Konduz Join Security Forces
LD162237 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Recently, 257 of our deceived compatriots with their assorted weapons joined the security forces in Herat Province and pledged not to withhold any effort and to struggle for the welfare and prosperity of the people, the blossoming of the homeland, and the achievement of the high aims of the glorious April Revolution.

According to another report, seven armed men who had links with the counterrevolutionary bands in the areas around Konduz Province abandoned the rebels and have recently joined the revolutionary government and expressed their readiness for any self-sacrifices to defend the homeland and revolution.

Qandahar, Helmand Operations
LD161751 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Excerpt] As a result of successful and victorious operations carried out recently in a number of the districts of Qandahar and Helmand Provinces, crushing blows were inflicted on the enemy.

Citing a responsible source, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that units and companies of the 2d army corps of Qandahar, with

the cooperation of Sarandoy companies and detachments of the State Information Service, recently attacked nests of murderous armed bands in the districts of Musa Qal'eh, Kajaki, Khahrez, Nawzad, Islam Dara, and Dahrawod.

During a heroic operation which crushed the enemy, a large number of enemy were crushed and a large number of heavy and light arms of the rebels were seized by the our heroic armed forces.

During these operations and deadly blows, more than 1,000 of the enemy, including a number of their leaders, were crushed, and another large number were wounded or captured.

Also, 34 DShK's, with more than 1 million rounds of ammunition and 84 boxes of ammunition, 23 rocket launchers with 1,300 shells, 12 mortars with 28,600 shells and ammunition, 6 recoiless guns with 1,368 shells and a rocket launcher with 409 rockets, five ZK-1's with 10,610 shells, 724 handgrenades, 1,417 antitank mines, 575 antipersonnel mines and 136 rounds of 100-mm ammunition came into the hands of our heroic armed forces. A large number of similar weapons were destroyed by the brave soldiers and officers of the aforementioned units and companies.

Also, in addition to destroying 141 positions and destroying dozens of depots of oil, ammunition, and clothes of these mercenary bands, antistate documents of nine committees, laboratory equipment, television sets, binoculars, a large amount of medicine, cars, equipment for detonating mines, a motorcycle, an electricity generator, and dozens of other items of equipment and materials belonging to the crushed bands which were plundered from the people were seized.

Weapons Captured in Konar

LD161804 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Quoting a responsible source in the country's security forces, a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reports that as a result of successful operations by security forces carried out in the area of Pashad in Konar Province, 41 assorted weapons, 19 antipersonnel mines, and 1 ammunition depot of the enemy came into the hands of the country's security forces and 6 vehicles carrying enemy arms were destroyed.

Western Diplomats on Bomb, Rocket Attacks on Kabul

HK171114 Hong Kong AFP in English 1108 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 17 (AFP) — The Afghan capital has been hit this month by a series of bombs, and rocket attacks on military and government targets, despite tight security for the sixth anniversary of the Soviet-backed government, Western diplomats said here today.

The worst incident was the December 9 explosion of a booby-trapped military jeep near the airport terminal building. The size of the blast made it impossible to cover up, and the official media was allowed to carry a report of nine dead and 54 wounded. However diplomats quoted Kabul sources as saying between 50 and 65 died and many more were injured.

The following day another bomb detonated in a womens' toilet in the Polytechnic, injuring 21 students, and possibly killing three, the diplomats said.

Several military barracks and other military facilities in Khair Khana, Rishkhor and western suburbs of Kabul were hit by rockets, leaving several casualties, they reported.

In the provinces, diplomats reported that 40 Soviet soldiers were killed in five days of continued fighting in the southeast Kalat region, on the Qandahar border.

Fighting was also reported along the Kabul-Qandahar highway, while major clashes took place in Ghazni Province where guerrillas shot down a helicopter and destroyed eight tanks, they said.

The diplomats said that in the Ghazni fighting 50 Afghan soldiers and four Soviet advisors were captured alive, while 50 mujahidin were killed or wounded.

The diplomats confirmed a guerrilla report that the mujahidin destroyed two aircraft at Qandahar airport early this month and damaged installations with rockets. They said the road between Herat and Iranian border was half under rebel control, while the remaining sector was defended by exclusively Soviet troops.

Gandhi, Zia Agree 'Not To Attack' Nuclear Facilities

BK171618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] India and Pakistan have decided not to attack each other's nuclear facilities. This was announced by the Pakistan President, General Ziaul Haq, at a news conference addressed jointly by him and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, at Delhi airport this evening before his departure for Islamabad.

General Zia disclosed that the two countries have agreed on a package of measures within a time-table to normalize relations and expand economic cooperation. The finance ministers of the two countries will be meeting in Islamabad from the 5th to the 7th of next month to discuss trade and economic cooperation. This will be followed by a meeting at the foreign secretaries' level in the second half of January where they will try and work out a comprehensive treaty on merging the draft of the no war pact offered by Pakistan and the treaty of friendship and cooperation offered by India.

The four subcommissions under the Indo-Pakistan joint commission will be meeting between the last week of January and the first week of February. This will be followed by the joint commission meeting at the ministerial level in Islamabad by the end of February.

President Zia also disclosed that Mr Gandhi has accepted the invitation to visit Pakistan during the first half of next year marking the culmination of various meetings.

Both Mr Zia and Mr Gandhi said that these measures will go a long way in building confidence and normalizing relations between India and Pakistan. The two leaders described their talks as very cordial and friendly. They met for about 45 minutes without aides. Delegations of the two countries assisted their leaders for sometime and also met separately.

The prime minister pointed out that they have agreed to follow a 2-prong strategy under which the two countries will first deal with areas of agreement where there are no irritants. Later, they will tackle the areas where there are irritants.

In his opening statement, General Zia said it is in the interest of both the countries to live as cordial neighbors. Replying to a question, the Pakistan president said that his country is totally opposed to terrorism of all kinds. He said Pakistan has been accused of harboring Sikh terroriss and giving them training. General Zia said there are similar accusations agaisnt India. General zia said Mr Gandhi and he agreed to examine the problems and take measures to satisfy each other that such a thing does not happen again.

Asked whether the question about the use of enriched uranium by Pakistan came up, the prime minister replied in the negative. He said they left it for future discussions.

Replying to another question, Mr Gandhi said that the defense secretaries of the two countries will meet to discuss irritants on the borders, such as Siaichin.

When attention of President Zia was drawn to his reported statement in Colombo that Sri Lanka will be given arms by Pakistan, he denied having made such a statement.

On Kashmir, General Zia said that it is a dispute between India and Pakistan and his country wants to solve it in the spirit of the Simla Agreement.

In a statement in both houses of Parliament, the external affairs minister informed the members about the decisions taken by Mr Gandhi and President Zia.

Answering questions in the Rajya Sabha, Mr Bhagat said the decisions do not signify any departure from India's policy on nuclear matter.

Karachi Report

BK171740 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Pakistan and India have agreed upon a number of special steps to normalize relations between them and have given assurances that they will not attack each other's nuclear installations. This announcement was made by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at a crowded joint news conference in New Delhi this evening before the president's departure for Islamabad at the conclusion of his 1-day visit to the Indian capital.

The president said the two countries have agreed to move forward step by step with determination to normalize relations. As a first step they have agreed to promote economic cooperation. In this connection, the president referred to the detailed discussions held between Pakistani Finance Minister Dr Mahbubul Haq and his Indian counterpart in their recent meeting in New Delhi, and said that Pakistan is looking forward to a meeting between the finance ministers of the two countries in the first week of next month in which decisions will be made on economic agreements and cooperation. It will be followed up by a process of political understanding between the two sides. The foreign secretaries of both countries will meet in Islamabad in the middle of next month for the purpose of merging Pakistan's draft of initiative for no war pact and India's proposal for a treaty of peace and friendship. They will also consider the other aspects of political issues.

The president said that a meeting of the subcommission of the joint ministerial commission will also be held in which other aspects of cooperation will be considered. It will include cultural exchanges and establishment of more and more contacts at the government and public level. This will be followed by a ministerial commission meeting sometime toward the end of February or early March.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that he is happy that Prime Minister Gandhi has accepted his invitation to visit Pakistan. He will visit Pakistan during the first half of next year. He hoped that this will be the beginning of a bright future in Pakistan-India relations. It is in the interest of both countries to live as good, peaceful neighbors.

The president said Gandhi met him without aides for 45 minutes and identified many areas of cooperation. He said if India has a misunderstanding on anything, Pakistan will make every attempt to remove it. Gandhi also gave such assurances. He said that they also discussed humanitarian problems and agreed to review the matter of releasing prisoners.

In reply to a question, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said his meeting with the Indian prime minister went according to his expectation. He said he has great hope that relations between the two countries will improve due to the efforts of Rajiv Gandhi and the restoration of confidence. He said there are many things needing clarification by both countries.

In reply to a question, the president said: I have assured Prime Minister Gandhi that Pakistan is totally against all acts of terrorism. He said we consider indulgence in such activities to be against the spirit of normalization of relations. In the same manner, Pakistan also has some complaints of a similar nature which were mentioned to Rajiv Gandhi. We both have agreed that this matter should be reviewed in detail.

Replying to a question on the Siaichin glacier, he said during his talks with the Indian prime minister the matter also came up for consideration. It was decided to hold a meeting of defense secretaries of the two countries and discuss at the meeting how best it can be solved.

In reply to a question on Kashmir, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said this is a dispute between Pakistan and India, and Pakistan wishes to resolve it in the manner stipulated in the Simla Agreement. He said he has said on several occasions that in order to build confidence and normalize the relations between the two countries we should begin with those matters on which we agree rather than with those on which we differ. The Kashmir issue will be considered at the appropriate time.

Gandhi Inaugurates Reactor, Promises Peaceful Use

NC162027 Paris AFP in English 2005 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Madras, India, Dec 16 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, speaking at the inauguration of a new 50-megawatt fast-breeder test reactor — the first ever built in the developing world — renewed his promise that India would use atomic energy only for peaceful purposes.

The plant, at Kalpakkam near here, is considered a landmark in India's nuclear development and is the first in the world using a mixture of plutonium carbide and natural uranium.

At ceremonies at the plant, attended by a large number of Indian scientists and several foreign experts, Mr. Gandhi said that the splitting of the atom "opened a new vista for harnessing energy that could be used for human welfare, but not for destruction." He stressed that India was fully committed to the cause of nuclear disarmament.

The reactor will speed up implementation of India's nuclear programme, aimed at providing at least 10 per cent of the country's energy generation by the year 2000, he said.

A total of 22 nuclear reactors are scheduled to be built over the next 15 years.

Mr. Gandhi christened the new complex the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, after his mother and India's preceding premier, who was slain by bodyguards last year.

Georges Vendryes, advisor to the French Atomic Energy Commission, who was among the guests, said the new fuel held great promise for nuclear power generation.

"India could be world leaders in this fuel development and France is very much interested in the results of the fast reactor at Kalpakkam," he said.

C.V. Sundaram, the centre's director, said the sodium-cooled, loop-type facility was being operated at low power at present in order to measure the reaction of the core to the new carbide fuel.

The data could be used to enhance designs for fast-breeders, he said, explaining that a commercial fast-breeder reactor can generate power at competitive prices only if the maximum possible energy is extracted from its fuel rods.

Dr. Hans Blix, director-general of the vienna-based IAEA, said the launching of the Kalpakkam centre was a milestone in the development of nuclear science and technology.

"Its significance extends far beyond the frontiers of India. It is a truly remarkable achievement and shows what can be accomplished by a developing country in the nuclear sphere when the determination and dedication is there," he said.

Nuclear power and nuclear science were no longer the monopoly of affluent, developed countries, he declared.

Prime Minister Calls for Sri Lankan Settlement

BK170420 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has expressed the hope that the Sri Lanka Government will consider favorably the alternative proposals put forward by the Tamil United Liberation Front. Talking to newsmen at Madras airport last night before leaving for New Delhi, he said India wants a congenial atmosphere to be created in the island which would enable Tamils to live in peace and facilitate the return of the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said he had impressed upon President Jayewardene the need for an early settlement of the Tamil problem at their talks during the SARC [South Asian Association for Region Cooperation] summit at Dhaka. The prime minister hoped that the Sri Lanka Government would not do anything provocative at this juncture to affect the prospects of a political solution. He said some of the reports from the island are disquieting, particularly those relating to violent incidents.

Official Says No Proof of U.S.-Pakistan Spy Collusion

GF171716 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 13 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, 12 Dec — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has said that serious steps will be taken to protect the country from espionage. During the question and answer session in the Indian lower house today, he interrupted the proceedings and said: We have obtained important information on espionage activities in the country from persons arrested on charges of spying. We must strengthen our security measures against the activities of such elements.

In answer to a question, Mr K. R. Narain, minister of state for foreign affairs, said: We have no information on U.S.-Pakistan collusion in spying on India's defense force. India has expressed concern over Pakistan's use of CIA services. In answer to a written question, Mr A. Nehru, minister of state for national security, said that 373 persons were arrested on espionage charges between 1982 and 1984, and that 128 of them were arrested in occupied Kashmir.

Delhi Reports Results of Assam Elections

BK180332 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Excerpts](?Results) of the 10 assembly seats now available from Assam, the Asom Gana Parishad [AGP] has won 5, the Congress-I 4, and independents 1. The chief minister, Mr Hiteswar Saikia, has won from Nazira.

Trends available say that the AGP is leading in a number of constituencies, followed by the Congress-I and the United Minorities Front [UMF]. The AGP chief, Mr Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, is leading in both Nowgong and Kaliabar constituencies. In Nowgong, he is leading over his nearest Congress-I rival and state education minister, Mr Mukut Sarma, by a margin of over 5,000 votes, while in Kaliabar by 2,000 votes against Congress-I nominee, Mr (Bola Ram Nag). In Rupahihat, the state finance minister, Mr Md. Idris, is trailing behind UMF candidate, Mr (Rashidul Haq), by more than 5,000 votes. [passage omitted]

In the seven parliamentary by-elections, result from only Banka is delayed where repoll has been ordered for today in two polling booths following alleged irregularities. Of the six results available, Congress-I has bagged three, Janata two, and CPI-M one. In a key contest from South Delhi, the Congress-I has retained the Lok Sabha seat. The commerce minister, Mr Arjun Singh, defeated his nearest BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] rival, Mr Vijya Kumar Malhotra, by a margin of 40,000 votes.

Later Report

BK180905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Excerpts] In the Assam assembly elections, the Asom Gana Parishad [AGP] continues to lead over other parties. Of the 24 results declared so far, the party has bagged 14, the Congress-I has won 5, the Congress-S 2, the United Minorities Front [UMF] 1 and independents 2.

Among the notable winners were the state chief minister, Mr Hiteswar Saikia; the AGP leader, Mr Brindaban Goswami; a former chief minister and Congress-S candidate, Mr Sarat Chandra Sinha; and the general secretary of the UMF, Mr A.F. Ghulam Osmani.

Here is a flash, the CPI-M has won its first seat in the Assam assembly elections. In Badarpur, Ramendra Dey of the party defeated Mr Kaluddin Ahmed, independent by 5,000 votes.

The latest party position in Assam assembly: Total seats 126, elections held 125, results declared 26; Asom Gana Prashid 15,Congress-I 5, Congress-S 2, CPI-M 1, United Minority Front 1, Independents 2.

Gunmen Kill Congress Party Youth Leader in Punjab

HK170602 Hong Kong AFP in English 0541 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Dec 17 (AFP) — Unidentified gunmen have shot dead a local chief of the youth wing of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in Punjab, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said today.

Parshottan Das Agarwal, 22, general secretary of the district Youth Congress, was shot and killed as he was riding on his scooter in the Ludhiana District late yesterday, PTI added, quoting police.

His name suggests he was a Hindu.

No arrests have been reported, PTI said.

Up to 30 people have been reported killed in Punjab in the past two months, and many of the attacks were related to a Sikh separatist campaign in the state, press reports have said.

Ziaul Haq Returns Home After South Asia Tour

BK171756 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] After his visit to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and India, the president returned to Islamabad a short while ago. The Senate chairman received him at the airport. Among others, those present at the airport were federal ministers, senators, members of the national and provincial assemblies, members of the diplomatic corps, and senior civil and military officials.

Terms Talks 'Historic, Fruitful'

BK180938 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan has said his agreement with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to refrain from attacking each other's nuclear facilities will greatly improve bilateral relations. General Zia, who returned to Islamabad after his visit to some of the SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries, including India, described his talks with Mr Gandhi as historic and fruitful. Speaking at the Islamabad airport, President Zia said that during Mr Rajiv Gandhi's coming visit he will be taken to Kahuta near Islamabad to see Paksitan's nuclear installations.

Senate Approves Political Parties Bill 16 Dec

BK170241 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] The Senate last night approved the Political Parties Amendment Bill 1985. Winding up the discussion during the third reading of the bill, the federal minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Iqbal Ahmad Khan, described as incorrect the impression that the bill is in any way repugnant to the Constitution. He said the formulation of legislation is a continuous process and if any amendment to this bill is deemed necessary at any stage after the lifting of martial law, the the House will be fully empowered to make any amendments.

The Senate will resume its session on Monday.

Radio Reports on Indirect Afghan Talks in Geneva

BK170230 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] The sixth round of the United Nations-sponsored indirect talks on Afghanistan has begun in Geneva. The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, began the talks with a meeting with the Pakistani delegation led by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. Cordovez later held a similar meeting with the Karmal administration's delegation led by Shah Mohammad Dost.

Earlier, a UN spokesman announced that neither of the interlocutors will make any statement until the end of the negotiations.

Later Report

BK180242 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] The sixth round of the United Nations-sponsored indirect talks on Afghanistan continued in Geneva for the 2d day yesterday. The UN secretary general's special representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, held separate meetings with the Pakistani and Kabul delegations for about 2 hours.

There has been no official statement on the talks, but the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, quoting informed sources, says that Cordovez has been successful in getting the interlocutors to hold informal discussions on the principles contained in the fourth document regarding the comprehensive settlement of the Afghanistan problem. The document relates to the timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

The news agency says Cordovez is making efforts to take advantage of the congenial atmosphere created by the superpowers' summit in Geneva last month. It seems he is trying to foster confidence between the two sides.

Delhi: Parliament Passes Bill To Lift Martial Law

BK180744 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] In Pakistan, a bill to lift the martial law by the end of this month has been passed by Parliament. The 83-member Senate earlier rejected more than 40 amendments proposed by the opposition. The bill also replaces a decree issued by President Zia banning political parties. It will become law with the approval of President Zia. Reports say this is said to be the last step to end the martial law in the country.

President Zia seized power in a coup in 1977 when martial law was imposed.

BANGLADESH

Saudi Defense Minister Arrives for 4-day Visit

BK171742 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Excerpt] President Ershad hosted a banquet in honor of Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the 2nd deputy prime minister and minister of defense of Saudi Arabia at Banga Bhavan tonight. The banquet was attended by the DCMLA's [deputy chief martial law administrators] Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed and Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, ministers, diplomats and high civil and military officials.

Earlier, the prince called on President Ershad at Banga Bhavan and remained with him for some time. He also met the DCMLA and chief of naval staff, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, at Banga Bhavan.

The Saudi Prince arrived in Dhaka today on a 4-day official visit to Bangladesh.

MALDIVES

Karachi Reports Communique Following Zia's Visit

BK171239 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] On departure from Male, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq was given a warm send-off at the conclusion of his visit to Maldives. A guard of honor of the Maldives national security force presented the president's salute which he later inspected as the national anthems of the two countries were played. President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and President Mohammad Ziaul Haq warmly embraced each other and shook hands as the latter took leave.

Pakistan and Maldives have expressed satisfaction at the steady development of bilateral relations and have said the agreements on air services, culture and education, visa and trade which were signed between them would greatly help enhance these relations. This has been stated in a joint communique issued at the conclusion of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's visit to Maldives.

It said the two leaders expressed satisfaction at the signing of the economic, and technical cooperation agreement during the visit. They also agreed to further strengthen relations by expanding trade and economic links and cooperation in the fields of culture, education, sports, civil aviation, tourism, and shipping. In this context, Pakistan agreed to provide soft term credits for purchase from Pakistan of food items, machinery for industry, agriculture, and construction as well as steel products. Pakistan also agreed to provide additional scholarships and training facilities to Maldiveans in its educational and training institutions. Moreover, Pakistan agreed to participate in major development projects for the betterment of the brotherly people of Maldives. The decisions taken are a concrete manifestation of South-South cooperation and the spirit of SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation].

The communique said the two sides agreed that the continued presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan posed a serious threat to the security in the region, with far reaching implications for global peace and security. The Maldives president expressed deep sympathy for the Afghan refugees and profound appreciation for the shelter and humanitarian assistance being provided by Pakistan to them. He reiterated support for their determination to return to their homes in dignity and honor.

The two leaders also expressed deep concern over the deteriorating international situation and reaffirmed their commitment to the UN Charter, NAM [Nonaligned Movement] objectives, and ICO. They reiterated their conviction that relations among nations should be based on mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. They stressed the need for promotion and strengthening international peace and security and strongly opposed the use of force in settling international disputes.

NEPAL

Queen Elizabeth II To Pay State Visit 17-21 Feb

BK171519 Katmandu External Service in English 1445 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Excerpt] At the invitation of Their Majesties King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and Queen Aishwarya Rajya Lakshmi Devi Shah, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and his Royal Highness Duke of Edinburgh will be paying a state visit to Nepal from 17 to 21 February 1986. This was announced in Katmandu today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

SRI LANKA

Government Reportedly Moves To Open Talks

HK181102 Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] Colombo, Dec 18 (AFP) — Sri Lanka has moved to open a dialogue here to discuss the country's ethnic issue with the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Tamil separatist party, informed sources said here today.

The Sri Lanka Government has explored the possibility of holding talks in the capital with the TULF through a message coveyed by Indian intermediaries to Tamil leaders residing in southern India, the sources told AGENCE FRNACE-PRESSE.

The government hopes that TULF leader Appapillai Amirthalingam and other party leaders now in self-exile in the southern Indian city of Madras will come to Colombo for the dialogue.

The government dismissed Indian press reports earlier this week that National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali would go to New Delhi to discuss the ethnic issue with Indian leaders.

The Colombo government has been interested in holding talks with the TULF since it submitted counter proposals to the

government's working paper, which India has endorsed as a basis for negotiations, sources said.

If the government-TULF talks were to get off the ground, then the People's Liberation Organisation Tamil Eelam (PLOT), one of the major militant groups, would be likely to join in, the sources added.

TULF sources here said that a message for a Colombo meeting was conveyed through Indian sources to the party leaders by Sri Lanka's high commissioner in New Delhi, Bernard Tilakaratne.

The TULF appeared reluctant to make any commitment to attend such a meeting and seemed to prefer to meet with government negotiators in India, the sources said.

Authoritative sources here said that the government wanted assurances that the TULF would not suddenly withdraw from the talks or abandon them as they did when the government met with the Tamil party two years ago.

Government sources added that the TULF call for the amalgamation of Northern and Eastern Provinces into a single unit is "non negotiable."

"We cannot accept anything called traditional homelands, as the Tamils claim. Everybody should be free to live and work anywhere in the country," the source said.

This is expected to be a major stumbling block in any dialogue that might resume with the "moderate" Tamils, particularly since four of the major militant groups have said jointly that it was "untimely and unrealistic to conceive an alternative to EELAM" — that is, an independent state.

The statement, made by the EELAM National Liberation Front (ENLF), an umbrella organisation for the four groups, was published this week as a memorandum in the *LANKA GUARDIAN*.

Montazeri Asks Cancellation of Marches on Succession

LD171157 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the office of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri issued a statement today announcing his decision to not hold marches on Wednesday and Friday, this week. According to the statement, while thanking all the dear clergy and students, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri asked them not to stage the marches in support of the recent decision by the Assembly of Experts [appointing Montazeri as Khomeyni's successor].

The statement reads: In His exalted name. Following the recent decision by the Assembly of Experts and its reflection in the mass media and the publication of a number of telegrams endorsing the decision, it has been learned that a number of clergymen and academicians intended to stage marches on Wednesday and Friday, 27 and 29 Azar [18 and 20 December 1985] in support of the recent decision by the Assembly of Experts.

In this connection, while thanking the honorable gentlemen, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri has said: We all hope and constantly pray for long-life and good health for the great leader of the revolution, His Excellency Imam Khomeyni, may his shadow extend. In a detailed letter, I recently asked the Assembly of Experts to change their decision. I pointed out that the wish of every one of us is long-life for the great leader of the revolution, until the advent of the lord of the ages [Imam Mahdi]. I stressed that due to the presence of the great sources, may their blessings continue, under no circumstances would I be willing to be considered. But, now that I have been faced with a fait accompli against my wishes. I ask all the committed brothers and sisters, be they clergymen, students, or other classes, to refrain from staging the announced marches in support of the issue.

May God cover our great Imam with his eternal blessings and those of the lord of the ages, and with his absolute power lengthen the honorable life of his excellency until the advent of that imam and the establishment of the global Islamic government, and give me and all the servant's success in serving Islam and the Muslims, and give total victory to the combatants of Islam. Peace be upon all the Islamic brethren.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Ground Forces' Seminar

LD181210 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec 18, IRNA — Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Wednesday urged the army commanders to end the five-year-old Iraqi imposed war with total victroy for the Islamic combatants of Iran. This is what people expect from the armed forces, he added. Rafsanjani, who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council, said that once war ended forces engaged in the war would be able to work for construction of the society.

Addressing the fifth day of the special seminar of major units of the ground forces, Rafsanjani noted that one of the principles of Islam is to defend Koran and anywhere this only book is defended can be considered as the Islamic homeland.

Therefore, he added, a group of Iranian youths despite needs of warfronts, were dispatched to Lebanon since Lebanese Muslims are also defending Islam and the Holy Koran.

The seminar was opened last Saturday by the president and head of the Supreme Defence Council 'Ali Khamene'i and was also attended by a number of military and civilians officials.

ETTELA'AT Interviews Musavi on War, Foreign Ties

LD161703 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec 16, IRNA — Prime Minister Musavi has said to the Persian daily *ETTELA'AT* that despite the propaganda tirades of the enemies of the Islamic Republic, the world now better realizes the rationality of Iran's stand in the Iraq-Iran war and that the Islamic Republic is no longer a politically isolated country.

With reference to the Iraq-Iran war he has also said that this war will be won by the party capable of holding out longer than the other. He says because Iran's Muslim people have a exceedingly higher morale than the Iraqis Iran can hold out longer than Iraq.

The following are excerpts from a summary of his interview published in the Monday issue of the daily:

On the Iraq-Iran war:

The Iraqi regime has two goals behind its attacks against the Khark Island, first to expand the war to the countries of the region, and secondly to strangle the economy of the Islamic Republic.

The (moderate) stand adopted by member countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council recently was indicative of Baghdad's defeat in this respect, though I do not want to think over-optimistically about the council... We commend the position adopted by member countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation council without being over optimist [as received] about it...

This war will be won by the one side which is more steadfast and more capable of resistance... the said countries have apparently allowed for new parameters in their more recent estimation of the Iraq-Iran war. Their more recent judgment of the situation has varied and many implications: among them that they now better envision the future outlooks of the Islamic revolution.

On foreign policy:

Our foreign policy is an offshoot of our internal policies. We have instituted a revolution based on our respect for a set of values, and the continuity of our revolution is dependent upon our upholding of those values.

Those values being the ideological foundation of the revolution would have to be upheld in every sphere of our activities including our foreign relations.

On the recent resolution of the U.N. General Assembly concerning the status of the human rights in Iran:

This gesutre of the industrialized nations — led by washington — signifies the continuously hostile policies of those countires towards the Islamic Revolution ... which extinguishes any gleam of hopeful optimism on our part towards those governments...

Naturally such course of action on their pa.. would be a determining factor in our relations with those governments...

It is only natural that such voting would leave its hallmark on our relations with those countries. As an example, (Minister of Heavy Industries) Mr Behzad Nabavi was scheduled to make a trip to West Germany... his visit has been postponed... not that we should intend to cut our economic and trade relations with those countries (which cast yes votes for the U.N. Resolution against Iran)...

But we will make an effort to limit our trade relations with those countries and make sure that our economic relations with them are maintained exclusively at the lowest necessary level...

More recently our people were gradually developing some optimism towards the international organizations. All along I always voiced the point of view of the government: that we should not count too much on the rulings of international forums.

Why? Because far beyond their being 'international' such forums are usually dominated by the international policies of the few big powers of the world...

The specific countries which voted against us at the United Nations compose a much implicative alignment... in essence these organizations (the United Nations and others) virtually promote certain policies and cannot possibly represent the interests of small and rising nations...

Despite the view of some who may think that such resolutions might harm us, we firmly believe that such rulings will serve to further radicalize our policies with respect to major world issues... in reality by voting for the resolution the big powers have as though inflicted another blow upon their very own selves..."

Minister Postpones FRG Visit Because of UN Vote

LD161608 Tehran IRNA in English 1247 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16 IRNA — Minister of Industries Behzad Nabavi has reportedly postponed his scheduled visit to West Germany because of Bonn's positive voting in favor of a U.N. Resolution against the Islamic Republic, Tehran's evening dailies reported Monday. The U.N. resolution alleged that Iran was among the countries violating "human rights".

KAYHAN and *ETTELA'AT* said that Nabavi was due to leave for West Germany at the head of an economic delegation Monday morning.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced last week that Iran would revise its relations with those countries which had voted against Iran at the U.N. General Asssembly.

Kuwait Expels 25 Iranians, Confiscates Possessions

LD180819 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] Bushehr, Bushehr Province, Dec. 18, IRNA — Another group of 25 Iranian workers who have been expelled from Kuwait, arrived here in the past few days.

The Kuwaiti Government in continuation of its nostility against the Islamic Revolution of Iran has expelled the group because of thier sympathy for the Iranian revolution.

Before being expelled, the group suffered mental and physical pressure and their belongings were also confiscated.

Tehran Belittles UN Vote on Iranian Human Rights

LD161509 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Following the United Nations General Assembly resolution against the Islamic Republic [for violation of human rights], our permanent representative at the United Nations spoke to our correspondent:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. The draft proposal which had been passed by 53 votes at the Human Rights Committee was put to the vote last Friday at the United Nations for final approval. Once again, it was approved by the same 53 votes in favor, 33 against, 45 abstentions in the absence of nearly 30 countries.

The resolution was formulated by Western countries, particularly the United States, Britain and their supporters; it was formulated with the support of the hypocrites and the Baha'is. The final clause of the resolution clearly names the misguided sect of Baha'is. The signatories included Australia, Mexico, Canada, France, Luxembourg, Holland, Norway, Britain and several other inconsequential countries. As for the United States, it did not sign the resolution; nevertheless, it was one of its staunch supporters. The U.S. representative at the Third Committee openly expressed his support for the misguided Baha'is sect, calling on all countries to take a stand against the Islamic Republic. The countries voting for the resolution include small and weak countries which are largely dependent on the United States economically. Otherwise, they include the countries collaborating with the United States, such as its European allies.

As for the tone of the resolution, it is not really offensive; its most significant point being that it expresses profound concern over the violation of human rights in the Islamic Republic, calling for freedom of action for the misguided Baha'i sect. The United States and its allies did not spare any efforts, including inducements and threats, in order to get the necessary votes. It was for this same reason that the resolution's tone was rather mild, in order not to be offensive so that different countries would not oppose it. Nevertheless, their resolution only managed to get 53 votes. In other words, only one-third of the UN members voted in favor of it. Consequently, nearly 106 countries either opposed it, stayed away, or abstained. Having said that, the victory achieved by the supporters of the resolution is not the sort which would ever make them proud of it.

It ought to be remembered that the hypocrites and the Baha'is, who have been enjoying extensive political and financial support by the satanic governments, have been engaged in recent days in staging the most extensive propaganda against the Islamic Republic. A great number of these people had come to New York and had contacted more than 100 representatives of the various countries at the United Nations. They even managed to have access to the UN headquarters and the Human Rights Committee through the support of some countries. These people succeeded in making use of all sorts propaganda means and eavesdropping.

Further Reportage on Nicaraguan Minister's Visit

Discusses Media Cooperation

GF151948 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] The second round of talks with the political-cultural delegation of Nicaragua, led by Manuel Espinoza, minister of press and information, were held this afternoon at the office of the executive director of the Voice and Vision of Iran. Both sides agreed on the need for the radio and television organizations of both countries to cooperate in cultural and news reporting exchanges. Technical and organizational aid by the Voice and Vision of Iran to Nicaraguan Radio and television also was discussed.

Communique Issued

GF170654 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] According to our correspondent, Mr Manuel Espinoza, the Nicaraguan minister of press and information, who is in Tehran as head of political-cultural delegation, held a third round of talks with Mr Hashemi, the manager of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

A seven-point communique was signed between the radio and television service of Nicaragua and the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This communique is aimed at expanding relations between the two countries' radio and television services. The communique says: The two sides, taking into consideration mutual interests, will engage in an exchange of programs to be broadcast and will take part in each other's cultural activities to the extent possible.

In another section of this communique, it was stressed that the two sides will inform one another of news and events in their countries and regions. It says: The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran will, to the best of its ability, send technicians to cooperate in the technical field to carry out mechanical and technical plans with Nicaraguan radio and television.

The communique concludes by saying: This document is valid for a period of 2 years from the date of signing, and is renewable for an additional 2 years.

At the end of this meeting, the Nicaraguan press and information minister gave a speech and said: The communique signed between the radio and television services of the two countries is a beginning, starting exchanges and cooperation which must be pursued with more vigor and strengthened. He concluded by saying he hoped the manager of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran would visit Nicaragua in the future.

Mr Hashemi then gave a speech and said that in accordance with the details of the signed communique, a delegation of experts from the Voice and Vision would soon visit Nicaragua to evaluate their technical needs. They will also draw up a plan for Nicaraguan radio and television. He said: We consider it our duty to give Nicaragua any assistance that would help its struggle against U.S. imperialism.

Espinoza Departs; Hashemi Inteviewed

GF170752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Nicaraguan Press and Information Minister Manuel Espinoza, who had been visiting Iran as leader of a political-cultural delegation, left Tehran this morning. Before leaving Tehran, he took part in an interview with our correspondent. He said: Fortunately, we achieved all our goals during this visit. We recognized the realities of your country firsthand and were able to establish a firm basis for cultural ties between the two nations.

Mr Espinoza then expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and attention granted him by the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially Mr Hashemi, the manager of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said he hoped that he would be able to be host to an Iranian delegation in Nicaragua in the near future.

Mr Mohammad Hashemi, the manager of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, gave an interview on the results of this trip and the communique signed at the end. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi, would you please outline the results of the trip made by Mr Espinoza, the press and information minister of revolutionary Nicaragua. Was there a joint communique signed between the two countries?

[Hashemi] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. The Nicaraguan delegation came here to become acquainted with the resources we have and also to ask for help in the technical field of radio and television, especially in the field of engineering and planning. They also wanted an exchange and cooperation in the field of programming between the two countries' radio and television services.

These issues all received a positive response from the Islamic Republic and officials of the Voice and Vision. We shall soon send a technical delegation to Nicaragua to see their radio and television firsthand, and to see their equipment and their capabilities. There is also an engineering plan in the works to renovate their radio and television services which we will present

to them. Then, we have to see what kind of resources we have in this particular field that we can extend to them.

At the end of the trip, a joint communique was signed. It speaks of the two countries' position with regard to imperialism and U.S. terrorism, and the violation of human rights by the United States and world aggressors. With regard to the fact that it is customary for a communique to be released simultaneously in the two countries, since this delegation will arrive in Managua on Monday [as heard], it has been arranged for the communique be released simultaneously on Monday in both Managua and Tehran. The communique contains the similar positions of the two peoples and the two countries with regard to world issues. [end recording]

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,322

LD171602 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA — Iran's jet fighters bombarded an Iraqi troop concentration center northwest of Iraq's Faqqah outpost (3308 north, 4723 east) at 07:30 hours local time (1400 hours GMT) Tuesday and returned to their bases safely, according to a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Tuesday.

In its Communique Number 2322, the Command says that Iranian artillery and mortar fire on enemy positions in the western fronts on Monday, killed or wounded at least 20 Iraqi soldiers and destroyed over 10 various bunkers and munitions dumps, four vehicles, one 106 mm gun and one artillery piece of the enemy.

The Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the western fronts over the same period also silenced enemy artillery in Sumar and forced an Iraqi patrol unit to flee from Qasr-e Shirin, reports the joint staff.

The Joint Staff further says that Iran's Muslim combatants checked all enemy operations in the southern fronts over the past 24 hours and opened fire on an enemy armoured column around Nahr 'Anbar and Tayyeb Township, halting the column.

Elsewhere in these fronts, the military communique says, the Islamic combatants shelled Iraqi positions, supply routes and command outposts on Monday, inflicting considerable casualties and losses on them and preventing Iraqi troops from planting mines in the region of Yabis.

In the northwestern fronts, Iranian Muslim combatants forced intruding Iraqi war planes to flee from the region. They also shelled Iraqi positions during Monday, killing or wounding a number of enemy troops and demolishing two munitions dumps, four vehicles and several bunkers of the enemy, according to the military communique.

Meanwhile, the sporadic Iraqi artillery fire on the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr over the past 24 hours damaged some buildings in the cities.

Baluchestan va Sistan Sends 2000 to Warfronts

LD150642 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Excerpts] The Central News Unit's correspondent reports from Zahedan on the departure of the Karbala marchers from the Baluchestan va Sistan Province to the battlefronts of war: Following the dispatch of the Karbala marcher's convoy from various parts of the country to the battlefronts of the war of justice against injustice, this morning more than 2,000 trained volunteer and popular forces from the mobilization forces from all over the Province of Baluchestan va Sistan set off for the war regions. They were accompanied by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ebadi, representative of the imam and the Friday prayers leader of Zahedan; Shi'ite and Sunni clergymen, a number of officials and directors of executive departments and institutions of the Islamic Revolution, after a march amid a warm and enthusiastic send-off by the Muslim and ever-present people of Zahedan.

On the basis of this report, 70 trucks carrying the donations of the self-sacrificing and justice-seeking people of the towns and districts of Baluchestan va Sistan Province and the cash donations of office and department's employees, accompanied the Karbala marcher's convoy departing for the battlefronts of light versus darkness.

Signed Central News Unit — Zahedan.